THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, certainly regeneration is taken up according to a working plan that is drawn up previously after examination, but it cannot be extended to private forests so long as private forests remain the property of private individuals."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Sir, may I know from the Hon. Minister whether it is a fact that when licence is issued for clearfelling with regard to private forests, the concerned persons are asked to submit a plan for replanting of trees and if so whether the Government take steps to verify whether such plans are executed by the people who have cleared the forests as per the contract entered into with the Collector? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, with reference to the previous supplementary question, I just now stated that regeneration in private forests cannot be undertaken by the Government, but the hon. Member might put a separate question to my Hon. Colleague the Minister for Revenue as to what extent the owners of private forests do the regeneration."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Sir, will the Hon. Minister direct the Departmental officials not to undertake regeneration on lands adjoining villages, which are eminently fit for cultivation purposes? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The officers of the Forest Department will not undertake regeneration in areas which are not suitable for that."

Drinking water well at Pullipakkam.

* 1512 *Q*.—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the well used by the villagers of Pullipakkam in Chingleput district for drinking and cooking purposes is in a filthy and damaged condition ;

(*b*) whether it was dug in 1928 and whether the villagers recently prayed for its early repair; and

(*c*) what action the Government have taken on their request?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) No, Sir.

" (*b*) There is another well in the Cheri reported to have been sunk about 25 years ago. This well is beyond repairs. A petition has been received requesting among other things the repair of the well constructed in 1928.

" (*c*) The matter is under enquiry."

SRI A. RATNAM :—" Sir, may I know whether the District Board was not instructed to repair the well, as it was sunk by the District Board? "

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THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" That well, which was constructed some 25 years ago, is beyond repair. Therefore, another well was sunk and completed in 1953 in this Cheri."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Sir, is the Hon. Minister aware of the fact that there is a graveyard adjoining this well and that water percolates from the graveyard into the well which was dug in 1928. The well could be repaired and after all cementing the surface will do. Neither the District Board authorities nor the Collectorate have taken any steps to repair that well. Will the Government take steps to close that well and then propose to sink another well instead? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Sir, that is what I said just now. Another well has been dug in this Cheri in 1953. As regards this well, which was sunk in 1928, the Board of Revenue will make the necessary enquiry."

SRI A. RATNAM :—" Sir, is it a fact that the Government are demanding 50 per cent of the cost from the Cheri people? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" No, Sir. No contribution is asked for from the Harijans or the poor and the Backward Class people."

(Starred questions Nos. 1513 and 1514 taken up together.)

Private buses for Avadi Congress.

* 1513 *Q.*—SRI P. JEEVANANDAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the premises of the office of the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Traffic and Licensing, Poonamalle High Road, Madras, was used as a bus-stand for parking buses belonging to private bus operators from about the 15th January 1955 in connection with the Avadi Session of the Indian National Congress;

(*b*) whether the Government charged any amount for the use of the Government premises as a bus-stand; and

(*c*) if so, how much money was paid by the private operators concerned or the Indian National Congress to the Government?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" (*a*) No, Sir. In connection with the All-India Congress Session at Avadi in January 1955, arrangements were made in public interest to run special buses from Madras to Avadi and back from four convenient loading points in the City. One of these loading points was located opposite to the office of the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Traffic and Licensing at Egmore. Since all the buses could not be parked at the loading point without creating traffic problems, they were allowed temporarily into the compound of the office of the Deputy Commissioner before being brought to the loading point.

" (*b*) & (*c*) Do not arise."